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SECNAVINST 1730.7A
N097
2 September 1993

SECNAV INSTRUCTION 1730.7A

From: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
NAVY

Ref: (a) U. S. Navy Regulations, 1990
(b) Title 10, United States Code
(c) SECNAVINST 1730.8
(d) DoD Directive 1304.19 of 22 Nov 88 (NOTAL)
(e) SECNAVINST 1900.10A
(f) Manual for Courts-Martial, United States
1984, Military Rule of Evidence 503
(g) SECNAVINST 5400.14A (NOTAL)
(h) DoD Directive 5120.8 of 24 Jul 1979 (NOTAL)
(i) USCG COMDTINST M1730.4A (NOTAL)

Encl: (1) The Chaplain Corps

1. Purpose. To describe the authority, promulgate policy and assign responsibilities for religious ministries within the Department of the Navy. This is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. SECNAVINST 1730.7 and SECNAVINST 5430.93.

3. Background. Throughout its history, the naval service has recognized its responsibility for providing its members with appropriate opportunities to exercise their religious preferences to the extent that doing so is compatible with military necessity. For example, the second article of Navy Regulations, adopted 28 November 1775, stated, "The Commanders of ships of the thirteen United Colonies, are to take care that divine services be performed . . ." This responsibility continues to be recognized to this day in reference (a).



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4. Chief of Chaplains

a. Per reference (b), the Chief of Chaplains, as Director of Religious Ministries, is responsible to the Chief of Naval Operations for the implementation of religious ministries throughout the naval service. The Chief of Chaplains is also responsible for management and direction of the Chaplains Corps and shall coordinate such matters with the Chief of Naval Personnel.

b. Per reference (b), the Chief of Chaplains, as a Staff Assistant, is responsible to the Secretary of the Navy for the functions and responsibilities prescribed in enclosure (1). In carrying out these tasks, the Chief of Chaplains is subject to the supervision of the Under Secretary.

5. Applicability. This instruction applies to all persons in the naval service who are responsible for the provision, facilitation and support of religious ministries. (NOTE: The term "naval service" as used here encompasses the Navy, Military Sealift Command, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine.)

6. Policy

a. In keeping with Department of the Navy policy, commanders and commanding officers shall provide appropriate Command Religious Programs (CRPs) in support of the religious needs and preferences for all members of the naval service, eligible family members and other authorized personnel.

b. Commands at all echelons shall ensure that chaplains are assigned to their staffs according to approved Navy/Marine Corps staffing standards as principal staff officers for the provision of religious ministries.

c. Commands shall accommodate the religious faith practices of individual members as appropriate under the guidelines in reference (c).

d. Navy chaplains, appointed to the Chaplain Corps under reference (d), shall perform duties specified by enclosure (1) in developing and implementing the CRP.

e. Religious Program Specialists and other personnel shall be assigned as required to support the CRP.

7. Action. The Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps are assigned responsibility for implementing the policies and procedures in this instruction.

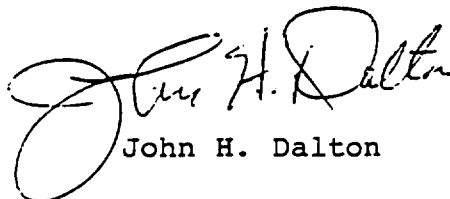
a. The Chief of Naval Operations shall:

(1) Issue appropriate directives to implement these policies and procedures throughout the Navy.

(2) Initiate action with the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Administrator of the Maritime Administration to implement these policies and practices in those elements of their respective services which receive Navy support for religious ministry.

b. The Commandant of the Marine Corps shall issue orders to implement these policies and procedures throughout the Marine Corps.

8. Report. The reporting requirements contained in enclosure (1) are assigned symbol OPNAV 1730-1 and are approved for 3 years from the date of this instruction.



John H. Dalton

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THE CHAPLAIN CORPS

1. General

a. Establishment. Congress established the Chaplain Corps as a staff corps of the Navy under the provisions of reference (b), section 5142. The Chaplain Corps shall be comprised of professionally qualified clergy received from the nation's faith groups under reference (d).

b. Mission. The Chaplain Corps shall provide appropriate ministries to support the religious needs and preferences of all members of the naval service, eligible family members, and other authorized personnel throughout the Department of the Navy.

c. Endorsement. Chaplains shall be professionally qualified clergy, certified and endorsed by their ecclesiastical endorsing agency under reference (d). Navy chaplains shall maintain their endorsement as an essential element of their professional qualification. Loss of ecclesiastical endorsement requires administrative processing under the provisions of reference (e).

d. Responsibility. Command chaplains shall be assigned as department heads or principal staff officers directly under the executive officer/chief of staff. Subordinate chaplains shall be assigned under the command chaplain. As the principal advisor to the commander/commanding officer on religious and moral matters, the command chaplain shall have direct access to the commander/commanding officer as provided in article 1151.3 of reference (a). The command chaplain shall report to the executive officer/chief of staff in matters related to the administration of the chaplain's office, and to the appropriate supervisory chaplain at the next higher echelon in the chain-of-command for professional guidance.

e. Bearing of Arms. It is Department of the Navy policy that chaplains shall not bear arms.

f. Manner of Addressing Chaplains. The manner of addressing chaplains in oral or written communication is set forth in reference (a), article 1010. Traditionally, chaplains are addressed as "Chaplain" regardless of rank. Terms of oral address such as "Rabbi," "Father," "Pastor," etc., may also be used under appropriate circumstances.

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g. Uniforms. Chaplain Corps officers assigned to Marine Corps or Coast Guard organizations may wear the appropriate service or field uniform prescribed for Marine Corps or Coast Guard officers.

h. Functions and Duties of Chaplains. Chaplains shall:

(1) Advise the commanding officer or commander on all matters related to religious ministries.

(2) Administer the CRP. Conduct divine services; administer sacraments and ordinances; perform rites and ceremonies in accordance with the manner and forms of the chaplain's faith group; provide outreach programs, spiritual growth retreats and religious education; and facilitate religious ministries for personnel of other faith groups.

(3) Provide pastoral care and pastoral counseling, including visiting the sick and confinees, and subject to the limitations of reference (f), or other applicable rules regarding privileges, safeguard the privileged communication of servicemembers, eligible family members and other authorized personnel throughout the Department of the Navy.

(4) Advise the commanding officer or commander on moral issues and provide input to programs which emphasize the core values of the naval service.

(5) Report to an assigned position or battle station in combat, at general quarters or similar situations to provide ministry as required.

(6) Assist in the Casualty Assistance Calls Program by providing ministry to the next of kin of deceased and seriously ill personnel. Chaplains shall not be designated as the Casualty Assistance Calls Officer.

(7) Develop plans, programs, and budgets to execute religious ministries within the command.

(8) Advise the command chaplain of the unit, or of the command to which the unit is attached, of necessary actions concerning programming of chaplain and Religious Program Specialist (RP) billets and other support requirements.

(9) Maintain liaison with local religious groups in the U.S. or foreign countries.

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(10) Fulfill faith group requirements for maintaining ecclesiastical endorsement.

(11) Provide supervision and training for assigned junior officers, enlisted members, and civilian personnel.

(12) Prepare and maintain directives and procedures pertinent to the CRP, including chapel usage instructions, turnover files, etc.

(13) Report semi-annually a summary of activities to the major claimant staff chaplain.

(14) Inform the command's Public Affairs Officer of CRP activities of public interest.

(15) Because of the potential for actual and apparent conflicts of interest, chaplains shall obtain advice from the legal office ethics counselor and written approval from their supervisory chaplain and commanding officer prior to engaging in any outside employment or religious obligation. Requests to engage in outside activity shall be granted or denied in accordance with applicable provisions of the Joint Ethics Regulation. (A)

i. Coordinating Chaplains. Coordinating chaplains are those chaplains assigned to Area Coordinators. Per reference (g), coordinating chaplains shall have the authority and responsibility to initiate action among commands within a designated geographic area, to assure that adequate support and opportunity are provided for religious ministry and training. Marine Corps and Coast Guard activities are also understood to be included in area coordination for ministry and training purposes.

j. Collateral Duties.

(1) Per article 1063 of reference (a), while assigned to a combat area during a period of armed conflict, chaplains shall be assigned and permitted to perform only such duties as are related to religious ministries and the administration of religious units and establishments.

(2) Additionally, chaplains may not, as a matter of Department of Navy policy, be assigned collateral duties which:

(a) Violate the religious practices of the chaplain's faith group.

(b) Require service as director, solicitor, or treasurer of funds or fund drives, except when assigned as administrator or custodian of a Religious Offering Fund (ROF) or the Chief of Chaplains Fund.

(c) Involve serving on a court-martial or rendering judgment in disciplinary cases.

(d) Require standing watches other than that of duty chaplain.

A) (e) Conflict with the chaplain's primary duty of religious ministry or with privileged communication, e.g., Family Advocacy Point of Contact or Equal Opportunity Officer.

2. Organization

a. Chief of Chaplains

(1) Position. The Chief of Chaplains of the Department of the Navy shall direct a major staff office under the Chief of Naval Operations as specified in reference (b), section 5142. The Chief of Chaplains as the single manager of the Chaplain Corps shall manage resources to meet the religious needs of the Department of the Navy.

(2) Responsibilities. The Chief of Chaplains shall:

(a) Represent the Department of the Navy to the nation's faith groups and advise the Secretary of the Navy on faith group policies, programs, and positions.

(b) Serve as the Director of Religious Ministries directing and administering the training, management and readiness of the Navy Chaplain Corps; and implement religious ministries in support of the free exercise of religion among personnel in the naval service, their families, and other authorized personnel.

(c) Advise the Secretary of the Navy on moral issues in the Department of the Navy and provide input for programs which emphasize the core values of the sea services.

(d) Report regularly to the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Commandant of the Coast Guard and officials of the Merchant Marine on meeting the religious and ethical concerns and needs of members of the sea services.

(e) Serve as the senior advisor to the Secretary of the Navy on religious, spiritual and ethical implications of policies and actions of the Department of the Navy. In these matters, the Chief of Chaplains shall provide such advice and counsel to the Secretary, the Civilian Executive Assistants, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and officials of the Merchant Marine on any issue they may direct or which should be brought to their attention.

(f) Represent the Department of the Navy on the Armed Forces Chaplains Board. Advise the Secretary of the Navy on religious and ecclesiastical matters as per reference (h), and maintain liaison with other boards, committees, and agencies in matters pertaining to religious activities.

(g) Represent the Department of the Navy in meeting with the Chiefs of Chaplains/Senior Chaplains of the armed forces of other nations and in international forums affecting religious ministry and the well-being of persons in the naval service.

b. Deputy Chief of Chaplains

(1) The Deputy Chief of Chaplains as the principal assistant to the Chief of Chaplains shall perform such duties and exercise such authority as the Chief of Chaplains shall prescribe.

(2) The Deputy Chief of Chaplains shall serve as the second representative of the Department of the Navy to the Armed Forces Chaplains Board.

c. Chief of Chaplains Staff. Chaplains, RPs and other enlisted administrative support, and civilian personnel shall be assigned to the office of the Chief of Chaplains to assist in the accomplishment of its mission, functions, and responsibilities.

d. Claimant Chaplains. A claimant staff chaplain shall be the senior chaplain assigned to the staff of a manpower claimant; e.g., the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Chief of Naval Education and Training.

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e. Force Chaplains. A force chaplain shall be assigned as senior chaplain/principal staff officer at a force or equivalent level. Force chaplains shall be assigned as principal staff officers when serving with the Navy or Coast Guard, and as Assistant Chiefs of Staff when serving with the Marine Corps. The Force Chaplains shall be responsible to the commander through the chief of staff or chief staff officer for the execution of religious ministry programs throughout the force or equivalent organizational level.

f. Command Chaplains. The Command Chaplain shall be the senior chaplain assigned to a commander or commanding officer below the force or equivalent level. Command chaplains shall be assigned either as department heads directly under the executive officer or as principal staff officers directly under the Chief of Staff. Command Chaplains administer the CRP by the direction of the commander and facilitate religious ministry within the local command.

3. Assignment With Other Armed Services

a. Navy chaplains shall provide religious ministries under a variety of operational and administrative conditions. They shall be assigned routinely to duty throughout the naval service, on joint staffs, or to naval activities which are tenants on Army or Air Force bases. In these assignments they shall advise the command on all matters of religion, ethics, morals, and morale within the command.

b. Navy chaplains serving in the Coast Guard shall be guided by reference (i).